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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 40th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PETRESKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.46, L.41 and L.39)

(f) WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution on women in development (A/C.2/50/L.46)

1. Ms. REBONG (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.46 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, pointed out that a new paragraph had been inserted, requesting the Secretary-General to submit a report on the matter to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

(h) BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on business (A/C.2/50/L.41)

2. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.41 and invited other interested delegations to join the list of sponsors.

(i) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolution on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/C.2/50/L.39)

3. Mr. CABACTULAN (Philippines) introduced draft resolution A/C./2/50/L.39 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

AGENDA ITEM 98: TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.43)

Draft resolution on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/C.2/50/L.43)

4. Mr. ALIOU (Cameroon) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.43 on behalf of the original sponsor, and also Argentina, Chile, China, Pakistan and his own delegation.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.3, L.4, L.10, L.13, L.37 and L.42)

Draft resolution on water supply and sanitation (A/C.2/50/L.3)

5. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the informal consultations, said that the following paragraph should be inserted after the second preambular paragraph: "Recalling further its resolution 47/193 of

22 December 1992, in which it proclaimed 22 March of each year 'World Water Day',".

6. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.3, as orally amended, was adopted.

Draft resolution on the target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1997-1998 (A/C.2/50/L.4)

7. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.4 was adopted.

Draft resolutions on preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa (A/C.2/50/L.10 and L.42)

8. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.42, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.10.

9. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.42 was adopted.

10. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.10 was withdrawn.

Draft resolution on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied in 1967 and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan (A/C.2/50/L.13)

11. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.13, said that it had not been possible to achieve consensus.

12. Mr. ELIASHEV (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that, in the Declaration of Principles, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization had agreed that issues relating to permanent status would be negotiated by the parties themselves at a later stage. Israel had long advocated the principle of direct negotiation without preconditions as the only framework within which to advance peace in the Middle East. It believed that the criteria for adopting resolutions on the Middle East during the current session of the General Assembly should reflect the positive developments in the peace process and the hopes for a better future in the region. In that regard, it had urged that draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.13 should be deferred.

13. Regrettably, the draft resolution was intended to predetermine the outcome of the permanent status talks, and thus contradicted the obligations undertaken by the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Declaration of Principles and also the principle of direct negotiation without preconditions, which formed the agreed basis of the ongoing peace process. The bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and Israel and Syria were the appropriate forums for addressing that issue. Furthermore, it called into question the inviolability of the peace process and the agreements signed by the parties.

14. Israel's commitment to the peace process was well known. Accordingly, Israel would vote against the draft resolution.

15. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that the dramatic and heartening progress in the Middle East peace process made in the past three years was the product of negotiations between the parties, who had shown courage, political will, creativity and wisdom in addressing their differences. Historic progress had occurred despite the difficulty of the issues and the opposition of those extremists who preferred yesterday's conflict to current efforts at reconciliation.

16. The draft resolution before the Committee was flawed because it purported to deal with an issue which, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles, was to be covered in negotiations to begin not later than the third year of the interim period, or May 1996. Rather than participating in a meaningless exercise, it would be more appropriate for the General Assembly and Member States to express their strong support for the peace process by offering encouragement and support to the parties as they proceeded with their negotiations.

17. A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zambia.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belarus, Belize, Cambodia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Poland, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Uruguay.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.13 was adopted by 91 votes to 2, with 22 abstentions.*

19. Mr. EL BATEL (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation wished to express its reservations on all points of the text that could be taken as recognition of the state of Israel or the Middle East peace process. The only way to achieve peace was by repatriating the Palestinian people.

20. Ms. WONG (Australia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that any infringement of Palestinian water rights, as mentioned in paragraph 4, was illegal, but that the matter should be resolved by negotiation.

21. Mr. KAMALIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in explanation of vote, said that while his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, that should not be construed as recognition of the State of Israel.

22. Mr. SHREIM (Observer for Palestine) said that his delegation believed that illegal settlements were a major obstacle to peace, and the mere presence of those settlements would lead to extremism and violence. Adoption of the draft resolution was certainly not a meaningless exercise since the text reaffirmed the position of the international community with regard to a dangerous element that might jeopardize the Middle East peace process.

Draft decision on the United Nations Population Fund: institutional arrangements (A/C.2/50/L.37)

23. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, said that a broad consensus had been reached on the text under consideration. He drew attention to an editorial correction in the first paragraph.

24. Draft decision A/C.2/50/L.37 was adopted.

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* The delegations of Cameroon, Colombia, Honduras, Mongolia, Nigeria, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Yemen subsequently informed the Committee that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution; and the delegation of Hungary that it had intended to abstain.

AGENDA ITEM 96: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued)
(A/C.2/50/L.8, L.32, L.45 and L.47)

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/C.2/50/L.8 and L.45)

25. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.45, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.8.

26. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.45 was adopted.

27. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.8 was withdrawn.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (continued)

Draft resolutions on implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/50/L.32 and L.47)

28. Mr. KING (Trinidad and Tobago) announced that Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.32.

29. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.47, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.32.

30. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.47 was adopted.

31. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.32 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 97: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)
(A/C.2/50/L.16)

(b) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (A/C.2/50/L.16)

32. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the results of the informal consultations which had been held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.16, drew attention to the following amendments. A new paragraph should be inserted after paragraph 4; it would read as follows: "Expresses appreciation to the international community for the financial, technical and material support given

to the Community." The subsequent paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly. The first line of paragraph 5 should be amended to read: "Renews its appeal to the international community to maintain current levels of, and increase where appropriate its ...". The word "liberated" in the second line of paragraph 9 should be replaced by "democratized". Paragraph 10 should be deleted and replaced by the following: "Calls upon the United Nations to intensify its efforts to assist the Government of Angola and UNITA in the rapid implementation of the Lusaka Protocol in all its aspects". In paragraph 11, the word "humanitarian" should be deleted and in the fourth line of paragraph 16 the words "drought mitigation" should be inserted before the words "drought monitoring".

33. In the French version of A/C.2/50/L.16, in the eleventh preambular paragraph the word "désastreuse" should be replaced by "calamiteuse".

34. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.16, as orally amended, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 101: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE CONVENING OF A UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.12 and L.26)

Draft resolution on international migration and development (A/C.2/50/L.12)

35. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/50/L.26.

36. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the results of the informal consultations held on the text, said that the words "in the fulfilment of the commitments made on international cooperation for development" in the first two lines of paragraph 3 should be deleted, as should the fourth and fifth lines of paragraph 4. The words "within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat" should also be deleted in paragraph 7.

37. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.12, as orally amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.